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TELEGRAM

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W
------------------141456Z 023877 /44
R 141230Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 056
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SNUM, PINS, SW, AR
SUBJECT: MYSTERY OF SWEDISH NATIONAL'S DISAPPEARANCE CAUSES FURTHER DETERIORATION IN SWEDISH-ARGENTINE RELATIONS

REF: STOCKHOLM 607 (NOTAL)

1. SWEDISH-ARGENTINE RELATIONS, FAR FROM NORMAL OR FRIENDLY SINCE THE MILITARY TAKEOVER, HAVE SHARPLY DETERIORATED IN THE PERIOD SINCE JANUARY 27 OF THIS YEAR AS A RESULT OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF 17-YEAR OLD RAGNAR HAGELIN, A DUAL NATIONAL HAVING BOTH SWEDISH AND ARGENTINE CITIZENSHIP. THE MATTER HAS BEEN GIVEN EXTENSIVE PUBL[illegible] BY THE SWEDISH MEDIA, TO WHOM THE CASE HAS BECOME [illegible] WORST SUSPICIOUS REGARDING GOA HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLA[illegible] THE PRESUMPTION OF BOTH THE MEDIA AND THE SWEDISH MFA SINCE JANUARY 27 HAS BEEN THAT MILITARY UNITS, SPECIFICALLY ARGENTINE NAVY SECURITY, KIDNAPPED HAGELIN FOR SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT WITH
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TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND HAVE EITHER KILLED THE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Beschke DATE 4/5/02
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GIRL OR HELD HER INCOMMUNICADO FOR QUESTIONING AND TORTURE.

2. BASED ON EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF HER ABDUCTION BY SECURITY FORCES ON JANUARY 27, IN WHICH HAGELIN WAS REPORTEDLY SHOT IN THE LEG AS SHE ATTEMPTED TO FLEE, THE GOS HAS MADE NUMEROUS REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOA FOR INFORMATION ON HER DETENTION AND DEMARCHES FOR RELEASE. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR PER BERTIL KOLLBERG IN BUENOS AIRES HAS BEEN ASSURED ON EACH OCCASION THAT THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS NOTHING OF HER DISAPPEARANCE OR HER PRESENT WHEREABOUTS BUT IS SEARCHING FOR HER. THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM HUGO BOATTI OSSORIS, WAS STEADFASTL. REFLECTED THIS SAME POSITION -- AND HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY RIDICULED BY THE SWEDISH MEDIA IN THE PROCESS.

3. ON MARCH 9, STOCKHOLM PAPERS DAGENS NYHETER AND AFTONBLADET PUBLISHED STORIES FILED BY THEIR CORRESPONDENT IN BUENOS AIRES TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOA HAS BEEN LYING TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND IS FULLY AWARE OF ALL DETAILS OF THE HAGELIN CASE. THESE CONCLUSIONS ARE BASED ON AN ACCOUNT GIVEN THE GIRL'S FATHER BY THE LANDLADY OF THE GIRL'S APARTMENT. LOCATED AT BERMUDE 5261 IN THE SUBURB OF VILLA BOSCH. ALREPORTEDLY THE WOUNDED DAGMAR HAGELIN WAS BROUGHT TO HER APARTMENT BY A GROUP OF ARMED, UNIFORMED MEN ON JANUARY 28, THE DAY AFTER HER ABDUCTION, AND WATCHED THE LATTER REMOVE EVERY STICK OF FURNITURE AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS TO SEVEN WAITING VEHICLES. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT, THE SWEDISH MEDIA NOW ASSUMES THE GOA HAS BEEN DELIVERATELY LYING IN THEIR RESPONSES TO OFFICIAL GOS INQUIRIES REGARDING THE GIRL.

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4. ONE EXPLANATION OF THE GOA'S POSITION IN THE CASE, AND THE ONE TO WHICH MFA OFFICIALS HAVE LENT MOST CREDENCE, IS THAT HAGELIN'S CASE IS "NORMAL" IN THE SENSE THAT VARIOUS BRACHES OF THE ARGENTINE MILITARY ON THEIR OWN AUTHORITY ARREST, DETAIN OR KILL PEOPLE EVERY DAY ON SUSPICION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY. IN HAGELIN'S CASE THE PRESS HAS PINPOINTED A NAVY SECURITY UNIT AS

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RESPONSIBLE. IT IS FURTHER ASSUMED THAT ONLY THE NAVY WILL "RESOLVE" THE MYSTERY -- THROUGH HAGELIN'S RELEASE, DEATH OR CONTINUED DETENION. THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN OFFICE CAN PROPOSE HER RELEASE, AND POSSIBLY HAS, BUT THE POWER BALANCE AND RIVALRY AMONG THE VARIOUS MILITARY UNITS IN ARGENTINA TODAY MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THE NAVY TO REFUSE.

5. THE NEW WAVE OF PUBLICITY ON THE HAGELIN CASE HAS CONVINCED THE GOS THAT IT MUST DEMONSTRATE CONTINUING EFFORT ON THE GIRL'S BEHALF. ACCORDINGLY, BOATTI OSSARIO WAS CALLED TO THE MFA LAST WEEK AND, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS AS WELL AS MFA SOURCES, WAS THOROUGHLY DRESSED DOWN BY FOREIGN MINISTER KARIN SODER. SPECULATION IS GROWING THAT BOATTI OSSARIO'S WILL SOON LEAVE HIS STOCKHOLM POST, APPARENTLY THROUGH HIS OWN CHOICE. MINISTER OF AGRICULTUDE ANDERS DAHLGREN, WHO LEADS A 25-MAN SWEDISH DELEGATION TO A UN-SPONSORED WATER CONFERENCE IN MAR DEL PLATA BEGINNING MARCH 14, FELT IT NECESSARY TO JUSTIFY SWEDEN'S ATTENDANCE BY INSISTING THAT IT WAS THE UN AND NOT ARGENTINA WHICH WOULD ACT AS COORDINATOR FOR THE MEETING. DAHLGREN ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE WAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE THE HAGELIN MATTER WITH THE GOA "AT A SUITABLE OCCASION."

6. COMMENT. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE CONTINUED DISAPPEARANCE OF HAGELIN WILL RECULT IN AN OFFICIAL BREAK WITH ARGENTINA. CUTTING RELATIONS TO DEMONSTRATE DISPLEASURE IS NOT TRADIONAL IN SWEDISH PRACTIC. THE
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CASE HAS CERTAINLY RESULTED IN A SHARP DETERIORATION IN DILATERAL RELATIONS, HOWEVER, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT KOLLBERG WILL BE WITHDRAWN IF HAGELIN (ASSUMING SHE IS STILL ALIVE) IS NOT RELEASED SOON. IN SWEDISH PUBLIC OPINION, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY ARE QUICKLY ASSUMING A POSITION ALONGSIDE THE DESPISED PINOCHET REGIME AS FAVORITE TARGETS FOR CRITICISM BY THE MEDIA AND A BROAD VARIETY OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS BECAUSE OF REPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THAT COUNTRY.
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